

**WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:**

1. A vertical sync phase lock loop (PLL), comprising:
  - a sync detector;
  - a loop filter;

5 a vertical sync discrete time oscillator (DTO); and  
an output logic adapted to detect a vertical sync;  
wherein the loop filter, the vertical sync DTO, and the output logic are  
coupled to the sync detector.
- 10 2. The PLL of claim 1 further comprising a no signal present indicator coupled to the sync detector and to the loop filter, wherein the loop filter is further coupled to the vertical sync DTO.
- 15 3. The PLL of claim 1, wherein the output logic is adapted to output the vertical sync.
4. The PLL of claim 1, wherein the output logic is adapted to output a field identification.
- 20 5. The PLL of claim 1 further comprising a vertical sync equilibrium accumulator adapted to filter horizontal syncs and pass vertical syncs.
- 25 6. The PLL of claim 5 further comprising a sample block adapted to receive the vertical syncs, an end line input sample, and a mid line input sample, and is further adapted to output a sample at an end line and at a mid line, wherein the sample block is coupled to the vertical sync equilibrium accumulator and to the sync detector.

7. The PLL of claim 6, wherein the sync detector is adapted to output a phase error, based on the received sample at the end line and at the mid line, to the loop filter.

5 8. The PLL of claim 6, wherein the sync detector is adapted to output at least one of a following value from a group consisting of:

- if a sync is detected, a lower than maximum value; and
- if a sync is not detected, a maximum value;

based on the received sample at the end line and at the mid line, to the no signal 10 present indicator.

9. The PLL of claim 7, wherein the loop filter is adapted to output a vertical sync discrete time oscillator decrement value.

15 10. The PLL of claim 9 further comprising a vertical sync discrete time oscillator coupled to the loop filter and to the sync detector, wherein the vertical sync discrete time oscillator is adapted to receive the vertical sync discrete time oscillator decrement value.

20 11. The PLL of claim 10, wherein the vertical sync discrete time oscillator is adapted to produce a vertical sync discrete time oscillator value.

12. The PLL of claim 11, wherein the phase error is further based on the vertical sync discrete time oscillator value.

25 13. The PLL of claim 11, wherein the output vertical sync from the output logic is based on a received sync event from the sync detector and from the vertical sync discrete time oscillator value.

14. The PLL of claim 1, wherein the PLL may be implemented in at least one of a following form from a group consisting of:

software;

hardware; and

5 a combination of software and hardware.

15. A method for outputting a vertical sync, comprising:

receiving a vertical sync sample;

producing a total error based on the sample and a vertical sync discrete time

10 oscillator (DTO) value; and

driving a phase error, based on the vertical sync DTO value, to a minimum value.

16. The method of claim 15 further comprising producing a trigger level based on

15 an average of a blank level and a sync level.

17. The method of claim 16 further comprising producing a trigger event at a falling edge zero crossing based on the trigger level and the sample.

20 18. The method of claim 17 further comprising producing a gradient error based on a difference between a sync height and the sample, wherein the sync height is based on the sync level, and wherein the gradient error allows effects of macrovision pseudosyncs to be ignored.

25 19. The method of claim 18 further comprising producing a position error based on the vertical sync DTO value.

20. The method of claim 19 further comprising storing the total error in a register, wherein the total error is based on an addition of the position error and the gradient

30 error.

21. The method of claim 20 further comprising, if an underflow of the vertical sync DTO occurs, presetting the register to a maximum value.

5 22. The method of claim 21 further comprising issuing a potential sync event and updating the register if the total error 138 corresponding with the trigger event is less than the total error stored previously in register.

10 23. The method of claim 22 further comprising storing the vertical sync DTO value at a second register during the potential sync event.

24. The method of claim 23 further comprising subtracting a half nominal DTO decrement value from the stored vertical sync DTO value to produce the phase error.

15 25. The method of claim 24 further comprising producing a proportional phase error term based on the phase error and a proportional gain constant.

20 26. The method of claim 25 further comprising producing a common mode integral phase error term based on the phase error and a common mode integral gain constant adapted to compensate for non standard number of lines per field.

25 27. The method of claim 26 further comprising producing a differential mode integral phase error term based on the phase error and a differential mode integral gain constant adapted to compensate for a different number of non standard half lines per field.

28. The method of claim 27 further comprising storing at a third register the vertical sync DTO value based on at least one of a following item from a group consisting of:

30 the proportional phase error term;

the common mode integral phase error term;  
the differential mode integral phase error term; and  
a nominal decrement value.

5 29. The method of claim 28 further comprising updating the third register at least at one of a following event from a group consisting of:  
a point of underflow; and  
a zero crossing.

10 30. The method of claim 29 further comprising causing a window that is centered on the zero crossing of the vertical sync DTO to open.

31. The method of claim 30 further comprising receiving the sync event by the window and checking for alignment of the sync event and the vertical sync output.

15 32. The method of claim 31 further comprising, if the sync event does not align with the vertical sync output, outputting the windowed sync event.

33. The method of claim 31 further comprising, if the sync event falls outside the  
20 window, outputting the vertical sync DTO zero crossing.

34. The method of claim 31 further comprising, if the sync event falls within the window, outputting the sync event.

25 35. The method of claim 31 further comprising outputting a field identifier.

36. The method of claim 15, wherein the vertical sync sample is received at an end line and at a mid line.